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VICK'S

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

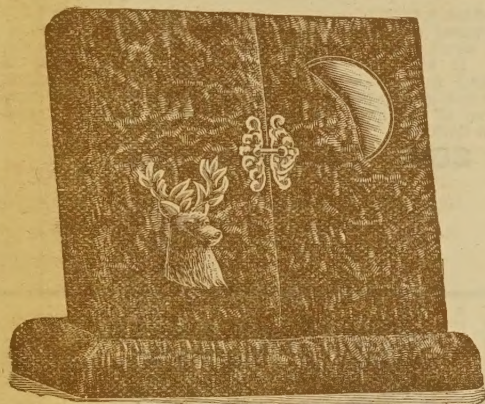
MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

Vick Publishing Co. }
Fifty Cents Per Year.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1893.

{ Volume 17, No. 1.
New Series.



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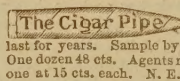
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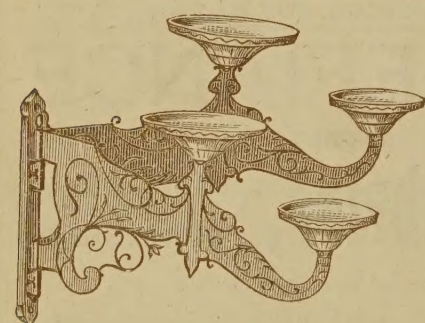
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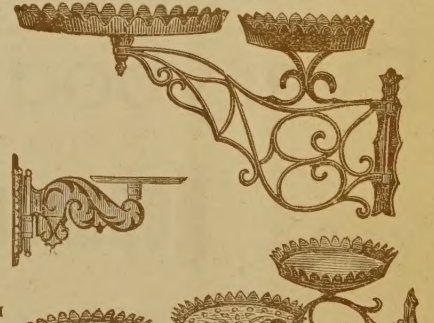
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JAMES VICK'S SONS, Rochester, N. Y.

VICK'S MAGAZINE.

Vol. 17.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1893.

No. 1.

MY CHOICE.

What flower shall be mine? O, how can I choose
From the myriads that cover the plain?
Shall it be the wild rose that blooms in the wood,
Or the buttercup down in the lane?

Fair are the lilies, so stately and tall,
That grow in the deep meadow grass,
And white are the daisies with bright starry eyes
That greet me whenever I pass.

Forget-me-nots, too, so tiny and bright,
Reflecting the blue of the sky,
And cardinal flowers, with scarlet aflame
Oh, why should I pass them by!

How, how, can I choose! shall it be the wind-flower
That tremulous sways in the breeze,
Or the orchid that blooms with a beauty so rare
In the shade of the tall forest trees?

Marsh marigolds grow by the side of the brook,
And here is the white meadow queen,
But I choose the blue violet, modest and sweet,
In its setting of emerald green.

—MRS. S. HELEN LEWIS.

NOVEMBER.

Yet one smile more, departing, distant sun!
One mellow smile through the soft vapory air,
Ere, o'er the frozen earth, the loud winds run,
Or snows are drifted o'er the meadows bare.
One smile on the brown hills and naked trees,
And the dark rocks whose summer wreaths are
cast,

And the blue gentian-flower, that, in the breeze,
Nods lonely, of her beauteous race the last.
Yet a few sunny days, in which the bee
Shall murmur by the hedge that skirts the way,
The cricket chirp upon the russet lea,
And man delights to linger in thy ray.
Yet one rich smile, and we will try to bear
The piercing winter frost, and winds, and darkened
air.

—Bryant.

THE MIMULUS.

THE best known species of *Mimulus* is the little musk plant, *Mimulus moschatus*. This for years has been a favorite in the greenhouse and window garden, being especially esteemed for its peculiar odor, which is that of musk; its pretty yellow flowers make another point in its favor; it is of easy culture and is employed both as a pot and a basket and vase plant. The musk plant is a native of the north-west mountainous regions of the United States, and in some favored localities, by the sides of streams, in the Middle States it has taken up its abode and spreads; it is a perennial, and is a pleasing addition to the local native florae.

Mimulus luteus is a South American species, a native of Chili. Under favorable conditions it is also perennial but is usually treated as a half hardy annual. It is described as yellow with two dark marks or blotches in the mouth or opening of the corolla.

Mimulus luteus cupreus is a variety of *M. luteus*, which is of dark color or coppery, and was discovered and brought from Chili in 1861, some thirty-five years later than *M. luteus*. In habit and general appearance, excepting the

color, it resembles the latter, but its dark color is in striking contrast to it, and the limb of the corolla is blotched with a number of blackish spots, giving it a very handsome appearance. Since this variety has been under cultivation it has been hybridized and has produced many beautiful varieties some of which are now carefully fostered. From the numerous sports which

translucency of the stems and branches, they are, in fact, almost transparent. For pot and basket plants they are very desirable and are easily raised from seeds. The seeds are very fine and when sowed do not need covering, merely sow it on the wet surface of the soil in a pot or box and cover it with a pane of glass or a bell-glass and in a short time it will germinate. When



THE HYBRID TIGER-SPOTTED MIMULUS.

these varieties show—far more numerous than in the original variety—the term *tiger* has been applied to them, and because the plants are smaller they are also called *dwarf*. The plants of *M. luteus cupreus* range from eight to twelve inches in height, but the Dwarf Tiger varieties, or according to the catalogues *M. hybridus tigrinus nanus*, seldom exceed eight inches in height.

A noticeable feature of these plants is the

seedlings get to be about an inch high transplant them singly into small pots and as they grow into one of a larger size. A rather light soil suits them best—say equal parts of good loam and leafmold or a portion of the latter replaced with cow manure. Ordinary greenhouse or window temperature agrees with them, and supply with water as needed. Any plant having particularly handsome flowers, or which it may be desirable to perpetuate or increase, can be propagated by cuttings.

THE OXALIS.

SOME of the species of oxalis are to be found in nearly every country, and they differ widely in their habit and manner of growth, some being annuals, others herbaceous perennials, while some are greenhouse shrubs. Some kinds have tuberous roots, others bulbous; some are tender, others hardy; some are summer and others are winter bloomers. Practically they may be considered as divided into two classes, summer and winter blooming species. At present the winter flowering varieties only will be noticed, leaving the others for future consideration.

The winter blooming varieties may be described as small bulbous plants producing during the winter and early spring months an abundance of flowers which are very beautiful in form and color, some being white, others crimson and yellow. The leaves vary considerably in size and shape, but are mostly trifoliate and possess a slightly acid taste; they are borne on long, slender stalks and are of a drooping habit, so on this account are considered to be very desirable for hanging baskets.



To grow the oxalis to the greatest perfection however they should be grown as pot plants and then they will be found almost invaluable for the decoration of the greenhouse or window garden during the winter months. And the pots can be suspended from the rafters of the greenhouse by means of copper wire or else placed in brackets, vases, etc., as circumstances may suggest.

As oxalis bulbs are small, six or ten, according to size, can be placed in a five-inch pot. The bulbs can be potted at any time from September to November, but the earlier the better, and let the pots be two-thirds filled with soil before the bulbs are placed therein. It is also advisable to plunge the pots in a cold frame or in a shady situation and to allow them to remain there until growth commences or cold weather approaches. They can be started into growth as soon as potted if desired, but I prefer the former method. When brought inside or started into growth they should be placed in a light situation and given a temperature of from 55 to 60 degrees. Water should be given as required and when the plants come into bloom a little liquid manure can be given occasionally.

After their season of growth and bloom is over, which may be known by a gradual decay of the foliage, they commence to pass into a

state of rest, and then the supply of moisture should be gradually withdrawn, and when the foliage has entirely decayed the pots should be stored in a dry situation until the time arrives for repotting and starting them into growth again.

Propagation is readily effected by offsets of the bulbs, which may be removed in repotting.

Although there is a large number of species and varieties, comparatively few are in cultivation as yet, and of them the following are the most desirable and distinct:

O. Bowiei. This species is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, whence it was introduced in 1823. It is a handsome and robust growing species and is grand for the window garden, the flowers being large, of a brilliant rose color, and produced abundantly.

O. floribunda alba. This very beautiful species is a native of Brazil, and its pure white flowers are produced in great abundance almost throughout the entire year.

O. floribunda rosea was introduced from Brazil in 1829. It is a variety of the above, differing only in the color of its flowers which are of a bright rose.

O. lutea is a Cape species and produces its splendid large golden yellow flowers in terminal clusters on long slender scapes. It is an extra free bloomer and one of the most desirable.

O. versicolor is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, whence it was introduced in 1774. It is a very pretty species, requiring the sunlight to expand its flowers, but they are as beautiful when closed as open; the colors being crimson, white and a pale shade of yellow.

New York.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

THE CHINESE SACRED LILY.

THIS beautiful flower with aquatic tendencies disappointed me when first it bloomed. To be sure I had seen the pictures and knew they portrayed a resemblance to the narcissus, still I had hopes and expectations of something new in the way of a lily when its blossoms should have unfolded, and although the single and double blooms were beautiful and of a fine balsamic perfume, still in these respects it did not far enough surpass the narcissus that grew in my yard to satisfy the demands of my mind.

The dozen bulbs sent me from Los Angeles were a direct importation from China and so large that I had to resort to large glass bowls for suitable receptacles. The old fashioned colored glass finger bowls that hold a pint of water I had mentally resolved would be the very thing for them. But when the bulbs were unpacked the smallest of the collection was too large for them. I filled six bowls with half a gallon of water each and set the bulbs plump down among the pebbles and shells that held it in position, and set them in sunny windows. It is marvelous how soon they began to show the green leaves, and how rapidly both leaves and roots developed in the water. It was the third week of October when I put them in the water and in November they were in full bloom. Not knowing there was a double variety I was both pleased and surprised to see about half of them double. Not less than six or a dozen blooming stalks were produced by each, and the buds were in thick clusters that opened several at a time, so

the first floweret had withered and been trimmed off before the others opened. This insured a long season of blooming, from November till January.

The other six bulbs I divided with my friends, leaving only two for myself, and as I had observed some clay, about like pipe clay, upon one of them, thought probably the celestials sometimes grew them in mud. So I filled two jars with clay the consistency of mud and planted them. They were kept wet and grew just like the ones in water. Truly it is said by many you can almost see them grow. Each morning showed an advance in growth, and the blooming stalks were numerous and well crowned with flowers. There is very little difference in growing them in wet clay and in water. Both do well, but the glass bowls with the water and the pebbles make the most beautiful ornaments for the household apartments and conservatories. However, since that experience I have learned from friends in Los Angeles that it is the custom with the Chinese to pack mud around each bulb and let it dry and harden. It prevents them from shrinking and drying in transportation and the adhering clay upon my bulb was accident, not design, as usually it is carefully removed before the lily is offered for sale.

The Chinese bring their sacred lilies into bloom at the season of their New Year. The Chinese quarters of the cities of the Pacific coast are perfumed and embowered with them in the greatest profusion. For a nickel as many blooms as will fill a wash bowl can be bought, but as the bulb has to be imported and the art of producing such remarkable vigor and florescence is only known to the Chinese, it is only the blooms at that particular season that are cheap, and not the bulb.

It has been recommended to slice the bulbs nearly through, cutting from the top of the bulb downwards, before putting them in water, but I cannot recommend the plan as I have never tried it.

This is one bulb the home florists cannot fall on in price, as far as I see, as it is upon the Chinese they are dependent for supply, and holding them sacred the price remains with them a fixture. Notwithstanding the price, the Chinese sacred lily is a flower for the people. It is so sure to bloom, and requires so little attention, and above all is so hardy. Some of mine froze in the bowls. Solid ice surprised me one cold morning all around the lily, but I set the bowl in a very dark closet and let it alone till it thawed of itself and no harm was done it. Replenish the water as needed, always keeping the bulb covered with water to the crown whence the leaves are growing, and grow they surely will after the first week in the water or mud.

Lexington, Miss. MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.

LET FUCHSIAS GROW NATURALLY.—Most fuchsias are of a drooping habit, and they never display their charms so effectively as when allowed to grow to suit themselves in this respect. Nothing looks more uncomfortable than a fuchsia, that wants to grow down, obliged to grow up by tying it to a stiff rack, unless it is the small boy in Sunday clothes which he is expected to keep clean by sitting bolt upright in a chair that doesn't fit his spine.

CULTURE OF OLEANDERS.

THE nerium, or oleander, is an ornamental evergreen plant or shrub that few window gardeners can afford to do without. It is too old and well known to need an extended description, but those who have seen only the common, unimproved varieties grown in the old haphazard way have little idea of what the later varieties are, or of what even the common variety will do under careful and intelligent cultivation. There are few plants that will live, thrive, and produce so many flowers with so little care and attention as will the oleander; but because it will bear neglect and still live is no reason why it should be neglected.

To bring each plant as near perfection in flower and growth as possible, should be the aim of every true flower lover, and when one has grown even one specimen with this in view, even if the result has not been all that was desired, one will not wish to return to the old haphazard way.

Plants have their likes and dislikes as regards soil, moisture, sunlight, etc., and only when their needs are supplied will they do their best.

The oleander in its native habitat, and in some of the Southern States where it has become acclimated, attains a height of from twenty to thirty feet, but in the North it may be kept within any desired limit by judicious pruning. It is said to have been introduced in 1596 from Palestine where it grows along the banks of the Jordan and other watercourses. It is easily propagated from cuttings which root readily in wet sand or in bottles of water set in a sunny window. When the new roots are about an inch in length the cutting should be potted in rich, mellow soil, and as soon as established it should be given plenty of sunlight and moisture.

The oleander delights in a rich, mellow soil; black dirt from the shore of a pond or the edge of a swamp, made mellow by the addition of sand and well rotted stable manure, seems to meet its requirements. It is a moisture-loving plant and should have an abundance of water, especially during the blooming season, but the drainage must be good so that there may be no stagnant water about the roots. It is a rank feeder, and when growing well should be supplied with some liquid fertilizer as often as once each week. Diluted leachings from barnyard manure make a desirable fertilizer for it; so, also, does soot tea, prepared by putting wood soot into a thin bag and pouring scalding water upon it. Use when cold and about the color of tea. As a special fertilizer small bits of fresh fish buried in the soil about the roots will be found satisfactory. Repot the plant or change the soil at least twice each year. Treated in this way and given plenty of sunlight a plant should be in bloom in about nine months from the cutting and may, perhaps, show much finer bloom than the plant from which it was taken, not only at the first blooming season but subsequently. It may be finer, not only in size but in color and form as well. One cutting, taken from a plant that bore small pale only semi-double flowers, bloomed at nine months' old, producing large clusters of very double flowers, each four and one-half inches in diameter and of a deep rich pink in color.

The oleander is almost a perpetual bloomer if well treated, but nearly all prefer to give it a season of rest during the winter, which produces a greater profusion of bloom in the spring. It will bloom again in the autumn. It is rarely troubled by the insect pests that prey upon other house plants. The leaves should be washed or sprayed occasionally to keep them free from dust. It grows rapidly and is usually of a symmetrical form.

When too large for further use as a house plant turn it out of the tub or pot in the spring and set it in rich mellow soil in the open ground as soon as all danger of frost is over. Give a daily and abundant supply of water and it will give a magnificent display of bloom all the season. In autumn, before frost, lift it carefully with as large a ball of earth as possible and set it in a tub or box in which it may be removed to the cellar. Give only a sufficient amount of water to keep the leaves from falling, and in the spring, when the weather has become warm, return it to the garden again.

There are many varieties of this old favorite, all beautiful—both single and double—and all deliciously fragrant. Among the best are Prof. Durand, double white flowers with creamy white throat; Lutea, single yellow; Gloriosum, double, carmine pink; Kenwood, large, double, rose; Purpureum simplex, purple.

The sap of the oleander is poisonous; children should not be allowed to play with the broken stems or leaves, and they should be kept out of the reach of cattle and horses.

BETH DAY.

THE CYCLAMEN.

AUTUMN is usually the season for planting cyclamen bulbs though they may be had at almost any other season of the year. This very beautiful winter and spring flowering bulb has three-fold merit, for it combines neatness of habit, elegant foliage and a lovely flower. The root is a round flattish tuber, and can be had at seed and bulb stores or of florists, and when planted should be at least one-third out of the ground, or the whole crown exposed. Many lose their fine bulbs by entirely covering crown of bulb.

The foliage is strikingly handsome, its leaves rounded and heart-shaped, of a deep green, diversely mottled and embroidered with silvery gray, so beautiful indeed that if the plant bloomed not at all its foliage alone would insure it a place in the window. But bloom it does, and the flowers standing distinct from the gay silver and green foliage are borne upon tall stems and are white, dark red, or delicately marked with blush and pink shades, sometimes spotted, and always fragrant. A very beautiful variety, and one perhaps the more often seen, is a pure white as to petals but with a very dark crimson base that is peculiarly attractive. A large tuber has been known to produce nearly a hundred flowers if well grown and preserved. Not the least among the merits of this plant is the certainty with which it grows and blooms.

The cyclamen is very easily propagated from seed. Buying choice seed it is wonderful what a variety of colors one may have, and the flowers will be produced in one year if the little bulblets are kept in active growth. It is a great

pleasure to watch them grow; first the round perfect seed, which should be sown not later than March in a soil of well rotted manure, leafmold and coarse sand, covered a very little and never allowed to become dry nor yet to be too constantly soaked; then the tiny bulblet, which sets itself upon the top of this seed bed and grows and grows in the most wonderful way. When there are two or three leaves they must be pricked out separately into little pots where, with rich soil, plenty of water, light and sun, they will be ready by fall for bigger pots, and with care and an occasional application of liquid manure will begin to flower during the winter and spring. Nothing is so good as to set the small pots in boxes of sand filled up to their brims and kept constantly wet, this provides the proper moisture and keeps the young plants growing vigorously during their first season.

It pays well to buy large bulbs in the fall. They are not expensive and will yield so many flowers, and by having a variety of colors will render the window a very marvel of beauty. The bulbs should be planted in pots of well



CYCLAMEN PERSICUM.

drained rich sandy soil, the crowns exposed, and after growth begins placed near the glass and kept constantly moist. They are moisture loving plants and will only thrive with such treatment. A strong bulb will have many flowers and will yield them from late fall until the next June, and each flower has the strange faculty of lasting for a number of weeks. When summer comes the bulb should have a season of rest. To insure this the pot may be set in some half shady place and given only just enough water to keep the ground from becoming dry and dusty. A very good plan is to bury the tuber at this time in the pot in the open ground and thus the root when uncovered in the autumn is fresh and plump. In August or September the bulb should be got ready for its winter's campaign by reducing the ball of earth about the roots, but with care, and repot in a larger pot with plenty of new rich soil.

As to kinds, the Cyclamen Persicum is an old and well established variety of very beautiful and mottled foliage and great variety of coloring as to flower. Giganteum is a greatly improved and larger variety of Persicum, the flowers of great size and many-colored, the wealth of rich dark foliage with its silvery tracery most beautiful. This variety is becoming better known; formerly it was a great rarity but is now more often seen and bids fair to become quite as popular as the well known and much loved Persicum. It is well to cultivate both as one variety enhances the beauty of the other. H. K.

OUR CORNER.

PEN and ink fail to describe a spot which has a continuous beauty for us all summer, rain or shine, as from our parlor windows we enjoy it. It is a three-cornered piece of ground off our yard, edged in with quite large stones, always kept pure and white with a generous coating of lime. In the center of this place are growing castor beans, the common and bronzed variety; they tower over all with their beautifully shaped leaves, seemingly hovering over the other plants as ministering guardians; then the cannas, in their stately and erect growth with pretty and gay flowers held in lance-like sheathes, carry out the idea of sentinels on guard; next the noble caladiums in their grand foliage keep watch below and the swaying of their immense leaves adds greatly to the effect; through all these the delicate artemisia with its graceful branches and sweetness brings to mind, no matter how often viewed, the hand of the Mighty One who in such great variety and in such silence, but oh! in such perfection, makes and keeps all these in His wonderful goodness for us to enjoy. In the corner I have a large tub hedged in with stones and shells, where here and there a fern throws up its beautiful leaves. In this tub filled with water my water orchid grows, floating so peacefully with its curiously formed air vessels and leaves, like little bottles, and occasionally a standard of loveliest purple flowers; a little wooden boat always floats in and out among the leaves. One of the stones that form the edging is an Indian corn stone brought from one of our mountains, it is hollowed out in the center and holds quite a quantity of water and serves as a large bath tub for the birds that daily come to indulge in pure fresh water. The robins, cat birds and sparrows consider it theirs, and often meet standing on its broad edge, always on the alert and seemingly talking to each other of the pleasure that has been provided for them in this lovely spot. What a contrast in the stone's use, once the crushing stone for the red man to grind his corn, now a drinking and bathing pool for His little creatures. But—"He made them all."

At one side a little tree stump affords a place for our two Maltese cats—Frisky and Kiddlewink; here they sit and with the cover of an immense castor leaf play hide and seek like young tigers. What pleasure it affords us, from the oldest member of the family to the youngest, to watch them all—cats, birds and plants. Our corner is the prettiest "spot on earth."

H. M. P. W.

ABOUT STRAWBERRIES.

A QUARTERLY publication devoted entirely to the strawberry has made its appearance and the second number has been issued. It is called the *Strawberry Culturist*, and is published at Salisbury, Maryland, W. F. Allen, Jr., editor and proprietor. The acreage and capital devoted to strawberry culture in this country is very large and we wish the new venture abundant success. Its columns are filled with live matter. An article on "Strawberry Culture," by F. W. Brooke, gives excellent directions. The following is his closing paragraph:

"What particular favorites will succeed best with any one is hard to tell. You must experiment largely

for yourself, the same variety may succeed and fail in different locations on the same farm. Old, well tested varieties will be the most safe to plant, always, although it would be well to try a few of some of the most promising new kinds. I would plant Crescent for best early. It is soon followed by Wilson, Warfield No. 2, and Beder Wood, all of which are good varieties. Out of twenty-seven varieties Parker Earle has largest plant, but at this writing it is doubtful whether it will mature all its fruit, although it is doing nobly now. Among others would name Jessie, Gandy, Eureka, Haverland, Lovett, Dayton, Bubach No. 5, Crawford. Farnsworth is a small berry, but one of the best in quality we have ever eaten. In new varieties I am trying Swindle, Greenville, Sadie, Southard, Mystic, Price's Seedling, Afton, the last five from Agricultural College. I have also planted this spring for the first time Beverley, Sandoval, Leader, Barton's Eclipse, Saunders, Bomba, and Gov. Hoard. I am looking for good berries in Swindle and Greenville."

An editorial gives the "behavior of different varieties of strawberries at the Peninsula Plant Farms in the season of 1893."

"First to ripen was Meek's Early, Michel's Early, Hoffman, Steven's, Westbrook, Van Deman, Acme; next in order would be Dayton, Beder Wood, Clark's Early, Farnsworth, Shuster's Gem, Great Pacific, May King, Pearl, Price Seedling. The following ripen at mid-season: Mrs. Cleveland, Barton's Eclipse, Beebe, Bubach No. 5, Burt, Crawford, Crescent, Cumberland, Eureka, Gov. Hoard, Gillespie, Gen. Putnam, Haverland, Lovett, Martha, Middlefield, Muskingum, Princess, Saunders, Shaw, Sterling, Warfield, Woolverton. Those which came under the head of late are as follows: Edgar Queen, Edward's Favorite, Enhance, E. P. Roe, Parker Earle, Regina, Stayman No. 1, Swindle and Gandy. The above is about in the order in which they ripen here, all planted in the same field."

Seventy odd varieties are described, with notes added of their bearing and shipping qualities. Those most favorably mentioned are Auburn, Barton's Eclipse, Beder Wood, Beverly, Bubach No. 5, Burt Seedling, Chairs, E. P. Roe, Greenville, Gen. Putnam, Gillespie, Grand Pacific, Haverland, Hoffman, Jessie, Lovett, May King, Martha, Meek's Early, Michel's Early, Mrs. Cleveland, Muskingum, Princess, Saunders, Shuster's Gem, Van Deman, Warfield, Woolverton. Verily, a long list after the poorer ones are rejected. The writer gives but scant praise to Parker Earle which finds favor at so many hands. He says of it: "Very popular with a great many but I do not like it. It is fine and productive but seems to be unreliable on my soil; for best results I think it requires a rich, springy soil." Apparently variety and soil are not adapted to each other in this case. Here is a note: "Stayman's No. 1 is productive, late and firm, medium size and poor quality." Of the Swindle, a new variety of which considerable has been said but which is not yet widely tested, the writer says: "Swindle, very productive late berry, will be valuable for market where a late berry is wanted. Quality not good."

In looking through the pages of the journal we notice a number of other kinds described by writers in various localities. Mr. John D. Forquer, of Perry County, Ohio, says a good deal in a small space in the following words:

"I had never before seen the Parker Earle. I had formed a pretty good opinion of it, but it was far beyond my expectations. It is big in every way as the land of its origin—Texas. It looked as if the big plants were trying to outgrow the red clover in the adjoining field, and both were trying to grow as high as the board fence that separated them. It certainly stands at the head of the list. Next the Haverland, with piles of large berries lying around it. The Bubach is a little larger than any and one of the best. The Warfield not so large as the three just mentioned but a great bearer. The honors between Gandy and Eureka were about equally divided as late sorts."

BULBS FOR WINDOW GARDENS.

MUCH more satisfactory results would be obtained by those who desire to brighten their homes with flowers during the dreary winter months if bulbs were planted instead of geraniums, fuchsias, roses, etc., usually to be found in the windows of the flower loving housewife. Flowers of this description, although making a good growth of strong healthy foliage, seldom blossom freely under ordinary circumstances during the winter weather; while they require fully as much care and attention as do the bulbs whose blossoms rarely if ever fail, and whose rapid growth and beautiful fragrant flowers are sure to prove a source of continued pleasure to the owner.

One does not need to be an experienced gardener in order to have success with bulbs; they are easily cultivated, will do well in any good garden soil, and as they will grow and bloom with little or no sunlight, seem particularly desirable for those whose windows are shaded from the direct rays of the sun. There are so many desirable bulbs that one finds it hard to make a selection for the window garden, but as each and every variety of crocus, tulip, hyacinth, narcissus, etc., has its own particular charm, one cannot fail to have a nice collection whichever kinds may be selected. And if the bulbs are planted in succession during September, October and November one can be reasonably sure of a supply of flowers during all the winter months.

In order to prevent premature top growth all bulbs should be kept in a cool dark closet or cellar after being potted until strong healthy roots are formed. The length of time required for this process varies somewhat according to circumstances. But as soon as they have become well rooted the top growth will appear to announce the fact, and they should then be brought to the light.

Those who desire a beautiful floral ornament for the parlor or sitting room should not fail to try the Chinese sacred lily. It is one of the very best bulbs for window culture, sending up from five to twelve flower spikes bearing large clusters of beautiful fragrant flowers. The bulb itself is large, and when in bloom is well deserving of a place by itself upon stand or mantle, where it can be seen to better advantage than when surrounded by other plants. Like the hyacinth the sacred lily can be grown in water if one desires to watch the formation and growth of the roots. And if placed in a prettily shaped glass dish, with the pebbles that are to hold the bulb firmly in place placed artistically around it, it is both beautiful and interesting.

This lily to the Chinese is the emblem of good luck. Not only is good fortune supposed to reign wherever it is cultivated, but to its magic charm the Chinese accord the power of bringing to a happy termination the hopes of any lover who chances to be in a house where a Chinese lily blooms on New Year's day. E. S. S.

PLANTS AND SUNSHINE.—Plants love the sunshine and cannot get too much of it at this season. Indeed, they seldom get enough. See that the curtains don't rob the plants of their rights. Whoever really loves plants will consider their welfare before he takes thoughts for the curtains.

PERENNIAL PHLOX FROM SEED.

IT is curious that no more is said about raising the perennial phlox from seed. It is very easily done. The plants flower the first season and, while you are not very certain to get any very stunning new varieties, all are pretty. It is of interest to have a row of them come into bloom and show what they are. You will see many differences in the foliage and its tint, white phloxes being of a lighter green than the leaves of those that are to be red. Gather the seed as soon as ripe and sow at once, putting the whole capsule into the ground, if you like. I have sent for seed two or three times but never got a plant from it; while perhaps not worthless it seems rather doubtful; but seed gathered and sown at once grows very easily. A box of dirt six inches deep standing out of doors is a good seed bed. The young plants transplant easily and will bloom in September. Order a dozen sorts of your seedsman and plant them near each other and your seedlings will be of all kinds and colors, possibly something rare now and then. A self-sown plant of mine has pure white flowers not more than half the size of those of the old sort from which it probably came, and clustered so closely at the top of the tall slender stems that the heads look somewhat like a bunch of snowball bloom; not so good of itself as its white parent it still makes a pleasing variety.

E. S. GILBERT.

MR. HUMULUS JAPONICUS.

IN a package of seeds received from Mr. Vick last spring came a most decided novelty. As the plants in my garden are always *people* to me, I called this one Mr. Humulus and determined he should be useful as well as ornamental. The next back yard was truly a "howling wilderness," and was an eyesore to me. Old tin cans, bones, bricks and burdocks filled up the space, so if Mr. Humulus did half what was claimed for him in the catalogue he would serve as a screen and thus keep me good natured. The seeds were planted along the picket fence and it was some time before they began to grow. Soon I began to boost them by dish water and cow manure tea, and every day they seemed to say "We are sure of this and thank you for some more." They were soon at the top of the fence and then the beautiful leaves so absorbed my attention I had no need to look over at the old tin cans, etc. No two leaves were alike, but white so predominated as to give my screen a silvery appearance very pleasing to the eye. Another point, while the woodbine and other vines were riddled with holes Mr. Humulus put his thumb to his nose and wriggled his fingers at the whole insect tribe. Just try him next year if you have anything unsightly you want to cover. G.

PLEASING NOVELTIES.

PLANTS which are always pleasing novelties are the cockscombs, or celosias. This is not because they are something new in the trade but on account of the rarity of their cultivation, and, then, their oddity and beauty make them admirable. One reason these plants are so seldom seen is because careful and skillful management is required in the germination of the seeds and the attention to the young plants. But the conditions required for the successful cultivation

of the plants are such that any earnest plant-grower can practice, and the production of fine specimens of cockscombs is worth considerable effort. The plants after starting can be planted and raised in the open ground or they can be raised in pots, and in this manner, if well grown, will prove to be very acceptable and attractive specimen plants for exhibition purposes.

The seeds are fine and germinate most readily in a hotbed or with bottom heat in a greenhouse. With a heat of about 70° and a moist atmosphere the seeds will start promptly and the young plants make vigorous growth. The air about them should not be kept close or they will tend to draw up; ventilate as freely as possible and

formed ones can be selected to grow on and the others set aside; and now the chosen ones should be potted in five or six-inch pots and be plunged in the hotbed or cold frame, for in our climate the latter is sufficient in summer, and by mid-summer the sash can be drawn off entirely, except at night and during storms. When the plants have filled the pots with roots they should be supplied with liquid manure.

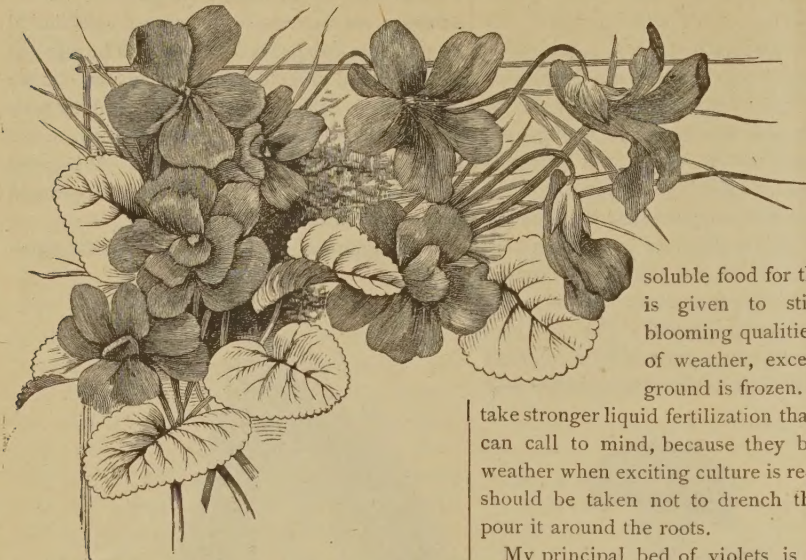
The engraving on this page shows the three



A GROUP OF CELOSIAS.

yet maintain the proper conditions of temperature and moisture. The plants should be kept growing when once started and a check to them at any time should be avoided. The young plants when large enough to be handled should be transplanted either into pots or in the hotbed, if the weather is not yet settled and suitable for planting them out. When planted out they should be given rich soil and good cultivation. When raised in pots the young plants should be kept close to the glass and not be watered too freely. When the flower heads show the best

forms of cockscomb which are most desirable. The tall, spiral-shaped head is that of the plumed cockscomb, *Celosia plumosa*. The broad head of medium height represents the true cockscomb form, *Celosia cristata*, of which one of the finest varieties is the *Crimson Giant*. The taller branching figure is that of the Japan cockscomb the most beautiful and brilliant of all. The heads of this variety vary in different ways but the form shown in the engraving, and appearing like coral-work, is by far the most pleasing. The culture is the same for the different kinds.



A PERMANENT VIOLET BED.

SWEET violets are dear to us all. As a source of pleasure to a family through the winter season when the conservatory flowers, too precious to cull except in moderate numbers, are the principal dependence, the violet bed rises in importance, and if properly managed, will be equal to the occasion of supply and demand.

There are violet beds and violet beds. None are to be held in disregard, for even a bed that affords fewer blooms than it is capable of is better than to have no violets at all. It is quite possible for people of limited means, or worse, of little love of flowers, by a small outlay of time and material to have beds of violets that require almost no care and less expense. To begin, make the bed of rich loam and some sand in either a sunny or partially shaded spot. Elevate it considerably above the surface of the lawn to insure good drainage and plant the violets about two inches apart both ways. The best season to make the new beds or borders is when spring is well on, but do not expect blooms the same season, as late spring is not the season for the violet to bloom. The plants will improve the time of sunshine and shower by growing rapidly, and by fall will be strong and well grown, ready to reward the cultivator with blooms in great abundance. During the dry summer months water copiously now and again, that is, when the leaves appear dry and dusty. To keep the plants growing thriftily during summer is to prepare them for incessant blossoming during the cold season. In warm weather they multiply and grow, in cold weather they blossom.

In the South violets bloom along with chrysanthemums and continue long after their season has ceased, in fact, the violet enters more fully upon its flush days of blooming shortly before Christmas and continues without cessation until spring, when the flowers become diminished in size and the strength of the plant goes to the formation of rich green leaves that form in masses. Just let them stand undisturbed, no matter how they apparently crowd the bed or border, unless some are needed to plant fresh beds or to give to friends.

When the blooming season in fall sets in have liquid fertilizer prepared and about once a week apply it. No matter if it is wet weather, it is

soluble food for the plants and is given to stimulate their blooming qualities in any kind of weather, except when the ground is frozen. Violets can

take stronger liquid fertilization than any plant I can call to mind, because they bloom in cold weather when exciting culture is required. Care should be taken not to drench the leaves, but pour it around the roots.

My principal bed of violets is on the north side of the house at the base of the bay window, and has not been reset since it was made, over ten years ago, and is now, and has been all along these years, covered with blooms. These violets are treasured in fond remembrance of the loved one who planted them and from whom there has been a long and dreary separation. Often they bloom so lavishly the mass of rich green leaves is under a haze of blue shimmering in the sunshine, and the odor perfumes the air. No matter how many blooms are gathered, every morning fresh ones open, and neighbors and friends, school children too, are welcome to as many sweet little blossoms as they choose to gather.

Of course climates differ, and at the North the violet bed needs some shelter, more than a covering of snow, and where there are brick walls surrounding or dividing the yards a kindly shelter is afforded if they are planted on the sunny side. The Russian and Alaskan violets are hardy in any climate, and given proper culture do better out in the cold than under artificial treatment. The Neapolitan and Swanley White do well in conservatories, but even they do not like too much heat. It is a sweet winter flower, dauntless of cold. What the New Orleans florists call English violets bloom some later in the season than the variety popularly described as the sweet violets, and the stems are much longer, the blooms larger and of a more bluish color, but lacking the fragrance of the other.

Sweet violets bloom in company with chrysanthemums and Roman hyacinths, and only retire when the later spring bulbs begin to bloom. The English violet then takes its place, and has stems as long as the dwarf tulips and the low-growing hyacinths, and in its permanent bed is there every succeeding year to greet the bulbs when they bloom.

A few directions, if followed, will relieve cultivators of the violet of the trouble of making fresh beds every year or two. In the first place it belongs to a class of plants, medicinal herbs, etc., that the monks long ago, in an age of superstition, called the "devil's bit," because they thought Satan bit off the end of the main root to prevent the plant growing for the benefit of mankind. The peculiar formation of the root that gave rise to that idea is caused by the straight main root dying at the extremity, and leaving only the base which becomes blunt or somewhat club-shaped. Collateral roots in quantity put out from this point and feed on the surface. It is these surface feeders that sustain the plants, and the secret of maintaining vigorous roots is to give surface food. If, after freezing weather, the plants have been lifted up out of place, or from other causes they need additional soil, with a trowel place rich loam all around among the

plants well up to the neck where the leaves start. The new roots will take to the fresh soil and adjust themselves, and grow and crowd each other like the grass roots on the lawn, but no more need resetting or having runners cut off than does the lawn grass.

My father (*requiescat in pace*) was quite a successful planter and the crops he had produced on his broad acres were phenomenal, and he attached great importance to enriching the surface; his "Maker," he said, "put the best soil on top and He knew what was right." In my experience nine flowering plants out of ten are surface feeders.

Such quantities of violets will bloom under this treatment, and they are so rich in color and so delightfully fragrant, that I love to describe it to encourage every lover of the beautiful to provide such a permanent fund of pleasure to draw upon through the changing years of sunshine and shadow. The violet bed with many, many blooms will ever be:

"The one thing changeless, utterly true,
Forever old, forever new,
And fickle and faithless never."

Lexington, Miss. MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.



A Little Daughter

Of a Church of England minister cured of a distressing rash, by **Ayer's Sarsaparilla**. Mr. RICHARD BIRKS, the well-known Druggist, 207 McGill st., Montreal, P. Q., says:

I have sold Ayer's Family Medicines for 40 years, and have heard nothing but good said of them. I know of many

Wonderful Cures

performed by **Ayer's Sarsaparilla**, one in particular being that of a little daughter of a Church of England minister. The child was literally **covered from head to foot** with a red and exceedingly troublesome rash, from which she had suffered for two or three years, in spite of the best medical treatment available. Her father was in **great distress** about the case, and, at my recommendation, at last began to administer **Ayer's Sarsaparilla**, two bottles of which effected a **complete cure**, much to her relief and her father's delight. I am sure, were he here to-day, he would testify in the **strongest terms** as to the merits of

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Cures others, will cure you

CHRYSANTHEMUM PHÆBUS.*

Phœbus, indeed, thou art!
 For, ere I knew thee so,
 "Here is the very heart
 Of light," I cried, "what tho'
 The day were dark and gray?
 Thou couldst thyself make light
 In thine own radiant way
 A place, else, soon like night.
 So fresh and strong! Who stood
 Like thee, among the rest?
 To see thee was a good
 In thy kings garments dressed,
 Lifting thy princely head
 To greet the lurking sun;
 Phœbus, thou art indeed,
 Oh truly royal one!

But didst alone impart
 The joy mere beauty gives?
 No, deep within my heart,
 This old prayer freshly lives.
 "Father, whence all light came,
 Make me so pure, so bright,
 That, knowing not my name,
 Men see, through me, Thy light."

—A. S. B.

* Literally, *pure, bright*.

SELECTED NOTES.

The last issue of *Gardening* contains "Notes from the Fair," by F. C. Seavey. In noticing the potato display he says: "The novelty in the miscellaneous or third subdivision of the rose class is Maggie Murphy, yielding in the hill test nine pounds and thirteen ounces to the hill (with neither a large nor a small potato in the sample hill shown), and 810 bushels to the acre; fertilizer 800 pounds of Bowker's potato food per acre. Field test 574 bushels per acre; fertilizer 300 pounds of Lister's Food to the acre."

The same journal in noticing the departed glory of the plants in October says: "The only noticeable flowers now are the Japanese anemones, pink and white; they are covered with flowers." "The prettiest little garden among State buildings," it says, "is that connected with Massachusetts. A fence overgrown with Japanese hop encloses the turf; beyond this, skirting the house, is an old fashioned border, chiefly filled with hardy plants. The little moss pink, *Phlox subulata*, one of the first of our spring flowers, is blooming again; the Northern form seldom flowers in the fall, but the Southern form often does. Both are hardy. Chinese larkspur, *Veronica baccata*, both blue and white, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, China and New England asters, false chamomile, pansies and heliotrope all grow in a luxuriant tangle. One reason for the prolonged blooming period of many of the plants is that they are not allowed to go to seed; as soon as a flower withers it is picked off."

A good deal is said about cinerarias in a few sentences by Wm. Scott, of Buffalo, in the *American Florist*. "It is about time now to give the earliest cinerarias their last shift, which with me is a standard six-inch. Don't use sifted soil, rather let it be coarse and lumpy, with plenty (a fourth) of good rotten manure. Remember that cinerarias thrive in a very cool temperature but won't endure the slightest frost, and to do well must have the lightest bench you have. There are few plants more troubled with aphids than cinerarias and in addition to regular week-

ly fumigation it will pay to spread fresh tobacco stems between the pots at short intervals. They need spreading out as their broad leaves begin to spread, and each time add some fresh tobacco. In many places you see cinerarias going off one by one, and it is attributed to a disease. In most cases it is, I believe, nothing but over-watering. The cineraria is a cheap, common plant, but to do it well requires the use of as much brains as it does to cultivate an orchid or the finest palm. They will not endure too wet a soil; once they droop with over-watering it is all over with them, and if too dry they drop their leaves but will recover with loss of a few leaves, so be most careful in watering them."

A GREAT POTATO EXHIBIT.

The firm of James Vick's Sons offered a set of cash prizes to their customers for the best exhibits of potatoes. The varieties were to consist of the American Wonder, introduced by this firm last year, and the Maggie Murphy, sent out this year for the first time. The amount of prizes aggregated \$325. The conditions of competition were stated in Vick's FLORAL GUIDE for 1893. The latest date to receive samples was the 15th of October.

The effect of the announcement was to engage competition in nearly every section of the country, and on the date of exhibition samples had been received from several hundred competitors. The samples were laid on tables and in the show window of one of the principal florist establishments of this city, that of Salter Brothers. The writer has attended fairs for many years, but never has he witnessed so magnificent a display of potatoes as were made by these hundreds of samples. While in all these samples each variety held to its own distinctive characteristics, and strongly enough, too, to easily identify it, yet the variations are remarkable. The variations consisted in size, in depth of eyes, in smoothness or ruggedness of surface, and in some changes of form and color. The sample of Maggie Murphy which took the first prize claimed it unmistakably. The handsome form of the specimens, the smoothness of surface, the slight indentation of the eyes and the beautiful color, a handsome pink, were all marks of prominence and made them the most attractive of the whole collection.

The specimens of American Wonder were beautiful—large and white and solid—they had unquestioned merits in the eyes of all who saw them. The smallest samples of this variety came from California and Canada, but they were of good size, smooth and handsome. Some single specimen potatoes of American Wonder were large enough for a family of three or four persons, all good eaters. The exhibit was open for four days and was apparently much appreciated by our citizens who very generally visited and admired it.

The judges, who were members and officers of the Pomona Grange of Monroe County, faithfully discharged their duties, and we believe their awards are quite just.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF AWARDS.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., October 17, 1893.

JAMES VICK'S SONS:

Gentlemen—When we agreed to act as judges in your potato contest we had no idea of the work before us. When we found ourselves confronted with

over 600 "dozens," coming from every Northern and from some of the Southern States, we were surprised and astonished to say the least. Such a show of potatoes was never seen before in Monroe County, the home of fine potatoes. It was very gratifying to see the interest city people manifested in potatoes and the way they thronged to see your splendid exhibition. We would have liked to give one half of the contestants prizes for they deserved it. In making the awards we took into consideration size, appearance, uniformity of the specimens and trueness to the original type of the respective varieties. Knowing nothing of the contestants, we were forced to make the awards strictly on the merits of the potatoes. The large crowds seemed to approve our judgment. Besides the contestants winning prizes the following exhibitors deserve especial mention, one of whom would have taken the 1st prize for American Wonder but the sample was received too late.

EXHIBITORS OF SAMPLES ENTITLED TO SPECIAL MENTION.

With the exceptions of the prize-takers the lots offered by the following exhibitors probably attracted more than usual attention, though there was not a poor sample shown:

Maggie Murphy—Dorrance B. Currier, Hanover, N. H.; L. Edson, Italy, N. Y.; Ralph Hoge, Hubbardston, Michigan; Joseph Ward, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The last was a large sample, 12 potatoes weighed 25 pounds. In some respects, however, they would not compare well with other exhibits.

American Wonder—L. Edson, Italy, N. Y. (This sample was received two days too late. When they came to hand the judges had already made their awards. Otherwise this sample would have taken the 1st prize.) Charles M. Fuller, Hudson, Michigan; E. A. Hinds, Ionia, Michigan; Ralph Hoge, Hubbardston, Michigan; P. J. Horning, Lamont, N. Y.; S. A. Kelsey, Candor, N. Y.; S. H. Linn, Ridgeway, Michigan; Joseph Ward, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

PRIZE WINNERS.

MAGGIE MURPHY.

First Prize, \$70—G. H. Williams, East Sound, Washington.

Second Prize, \$35—O. M. Baldwin, Stevensville, Montana.

Third Prize, \$25—Jonathan Benn, Hodgson, Maine.

Fourth Prize, \$10—Mrs. Miles Mabie, address not known.

Five Dollar Prizes—Frank Feisack, Oconto, Wisconsin; E. M. Trow, Barre, Vermont; O. B. Ingraham, Adirondack, N. Y.; A. B. Kendall, Manchester, California; W. F. Kirchberger, East Morris, Connecticut; Mrs. R. L. Dickey, Titusville, Pa.; I. Smelser, Golconda, Nevada.

AMERICAN WONDER.

First Prize, \$60—Jonah G. Thomas, Sandusky, N. Y.

Second Prize, \$30—D. T. Talcott, Williston, Vt.

Third Prize, \$20—H. West, Scappoose, Oregon.

Fourth Prize, \$10—J. O. Hinds, Ionia, Michigan.

Five Dollar Prizes—Mrs. L. F. Parker, Ritzville, Washington; J. C. Green, Punxsutawney, Pa.; I. F. Irwin, New Milford, Pa.; James West, Irondequoit, N. Y.; Gussie Taylor, Clarion, Pa.; N. B. Johnson, Ontario, Ohio.

Thanking you for courtesies shown and trusting that our work will be satisfactory we are

Yours truly,

LANGDON WALL, Secretary,

LEWIS CURTIS, Lecturer,

Of the Monroe Co. Pomona Grange, Judges.

A world of misery is implied in the words "Sick Headache." A world of relief is wrapped up in a twenty-five cent box of

Beecham's

Pills
(Tasteless)

WORTH GUINEA BOX

Letter Box.

In this department we will be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Spider Plant—Fuchsia.

Would some one please tell me through the Magazine how to raise a spider plant, and how to start fuchsias, whether in rich soil or sand? S. I. E.
Sarversville, Pa.

Tuberose.

Will you tell me in the columns of your Magazine what to do with my tuberose, it has just gone out of blossom. What shall I do with it to have it bloom again, or what care to give it through the winter?
East Union, Me. MRS. E. A. W.

A tuberose bulb only blooms once; after blooming throw it away.

Season for Pruning Roses.

What season of the year do you consider the most favorable for pruning roses, spring or fall, and what months, and to how many eyes is it advisable to prune?
Portland, Me. R. B. P.

The early spring before the buds start is the best time for pruning roses. If pruned in the fall the cut ends are apt to die back.

Lady Washington.

In answer to the question in your Magazine of Mrs. S. A. H., in regard to the Lady Washington, would say I have had a pelargonium and have no trouble in making it blossom. It began to bloom in April and lasted until August 25. It is two and a half years old and never has been cut back, it is five feet high. I think if Mrs. S. A. H. should let her plant grow and not cut it back it would bloom next spring or when it got to its proper age or height. MRS. E. A. W.
East Union, Me.

Oleanders—Roses—Veranda Climber.

Please tell me the best time to cut back oleanders? I have one thirty-eight years old in pretty good condition.

When is the best time to get roses?
What makes the best and quickest shade for veranda? Mrs. J. M.
Cartisle, Ky.

Cut back oleanders early in spring before starting into growth.

The best time for planting out-door roses is in the spring.

All things considered the Virginia creeper is the best climber for shading a veranda.

Easter Lilies.

I have Easter lilies potted in May which blossomed in August. What shall I do with them after they are done blossoming? When is the proper time to pot them for Easter blooming? Will a bulb which has blossomed in August bloom again? A. E. W.
Monterey, Mass.

A Bermuda lily which bloomed in August cannot be expected to bloom again in spring. The best to do with the bulb now is to plant it out in good soil and give it a covering of strawy manure and leave it. Strong fresh bulbs can now be potted for early spring blooming.

Gem Calla.

Will you please tell me through your Magazine what is the matter of my Gem calla lily? For awhile in the spring it grew nicely but soon began to die, as soon as a new leaf comes out an old one dies. I have it potted in fairly rich soil and charcoal, keep it quite wet with charcoal water and until the present time, September 17, have had it out of doors.

A READER.

A number of complaints have been received by us about this new variety of calla. We fear that, in order to put it into the market in sufficient quantities, it has been over-propagated and so temporarily weakened. We hope our readers who have tried the plant will report the present condition of the plants.

Pond Lily—Gladiolus—Hyacinths.

Please inform me what I shall do with pond lily roots which I have in small tank in my garden to keep them over winter? Also, when I shall take up gladiolus and hyacinth bulbs? C. W. L.
New York, N. Y.

The tank can be loosely filled with brush and straw or fallen leaves for winter protection.

Gladiolus bulbs can be taken up now if not already lifted.

This is the time for planting hyacinth buds, not for lifting them. If those which suggest the inquiry are some which have been left in the ground all the season, there is nothing to do with them now, but simply to leave them where they are.

Applying Fertilizers.

In using a mixture of superphosphate (bone black or rock phosphate), muriate of potash and nitrate of soda, for fertilizing roses and other plants, would you advise scattering the same upon the soil directly about the stems of the plants or a little distance away from them? R. B. P.

Portland, Me.

The fertilizers should be placed where the roots can most easily reach them. This will be some distance from the plants. For deep rooting plants such as grape vines and some shrubs and trees it is best to place them from two to four feet away and dig or plow them in. For small plants which root near the surface scatter it over the ground, keeping a few inches away from the plant, and hoe or rake over the ground afterwards.

Hydrangea.

Please tell me what to do for my hydrangea, the leaves get black and look frozen. I treat it the same as other plants, water it every day. Must I keep in the sun or shade? T. K.
Detroit, Mich.

Our inquirers seem to think that we know far more than most mortals, for many of them take no trouble to mention essential points in connection with their inquiries. In this case we suppose the plant mentioned was one of the tender varieties. As the date of the inquiry is September 30, it may be that the plant has been kept growing all summer and now is given no chance for rest on account of abundant waterings. Let it go nearly dry a few weeks and lose its leaves, and then, after cutting it back, it may be ready to start a new growth.

Does Electric Light Injure Plants?

Should not freesias bloom in less than three or four months from planting? I planted my bulbs—four or five to a five-inch pot—the middle of October, using good garden loam (not worn out soil) enriched with some well rotted cow compost, but carefully surrounding each bulb with a little bed of clean coarse sand. I then moistened them moderately and left them on a bench on the back porch a day or two, thence moving them to the shed inside for a week, never letting them get too dry; then they were moved to a fireless but not cold room upstairs for another week. Finally I put them in a south bay window in the parlor where they have since remained. They came up very soon after being put in the window and have made good thrifty growth, and are now full of buds on their long graceful stems; a few of the buds are just bursting into bloom. In another week they will be beautiful, but it will then be past the middle of February, or over four months since the bulbs were set out.

Now there is a large arc electric light on the corner of the street not fifty feet from the window and which shines into it and on the plants from six p. m. to six a. m. daily or nightly. I have in this window geraniums budded and blooming, heliotropes blooming, pelargoniums, fuchsias, a hibiscus budded, a yellow jasmine budded, a pot of blue lobelia, a rose geranium, a carnation Portia, a pot of smilax, (on side bracket,) a Madeira vine, two nasturtiums, a morning glory, and a pot containing three kinds of oxalis, also on window brackets, an oxalis and morning glory blooming, a begonia, a Chinese lily and the three

pots of freesias, alba, and Leichterlinii. The freesias are in the corner next the light. I never pull the blinds clear down as there are so many plants. The window is not crowded, however, as you might think. There is a shelf the whole width of it, beside four brackets, and it has five sashes in it. The house is furnace heated, but I water and shower the plants often, and they do well and never freeze. The lowest figure the thermometer touched this winter here was 12° above zero, which is four or five degrees below our average winter cold. This is one of our few "hard" winters. I find that all the plants in the lighted corner bloom much more freely than in the other, and therefore I put the freesias there, and am satisfied with their growth in all respects save its slowness, and so I ask the question "is electric light harmful to freesias?" Would they do better to have the natural hours of darkness? The other plants do not seem to miss it. The carnations even thrive and bloom in the lighted corner, though most catalogues say they do not do well indoors. We have not enough sun in our winters to induce the freest bloom in pot plants, but this light has seemed to take its place with all my other window plants. Perhaps it is too warm in the room for freesias. The average heat is 69° to 71°. I know it would better be 65° for plants with more moisture, but I open the windows wide a few minutes quite often, just long enough to give us, plants and all, a good breath of fresh air.

I fear this is much too long, but perhaps you can take the gist of it and answer it in your Magazine. I am greatly interested and instructed by reading the letters of your correspondents and your replies. I have over a hundred roses, and eagerly seize upon anything relating to their culture. I winter all mine out in the ground by protecting with compost and evergreens. Niphetos, Bride and Marechal Niel live all right for me. MRS. W. W. P.

It would be safe to say from our correspondent's own showing that electric light does not injure plants, for, apparently, there could not be a much finer lot than those described. And then we know from experiments conducted in Europe and this country that the electric light promotes the growth of plants. The non-blooming of the freesias must be explained by some other cause. The high temperature mentioned is unfavorable to their best development, but it should not prevent blooming. Perhaps the source of the trouble will be apparent later.

These notes written by an Oregon correspondent last winter have points of interest for our readers who are now just starting again for another winter season with plants. They show for one thing that the writer is thoroughly in earnest in plant growing and has a genuine love for flowers. Such devotion cannot fail of success.

Valued Indorsement
of Scott's Emulsion is contained in letters from the medical profession speaking of its gratifying results in their practice.



Scott's Emulsion
of cod-liver oil with Hypophosphites can be administered when plain oil is out of the question. It is almost as palatable as milk—easier to digest than milk.

Prepared by Scott & Bowne, N. Y. All druggists.

Removing Protection from Roses.

How early in the spring should the winter protection be removed from roses? R. B. P.
Portland, Me.

That will depend on the climate and the peculiarity of the season. The protection must remain while there is danger of heavy frosts or even of hard cold winds; on the other hand it should not be left until the warm temperature starts the buds.

Green-Fly.

Will you kindly inform me what will kill the green fly, or louse, on carnations? They killed some of my choicest ones last winter and I have some nice ones for this winter and would like to know how to get rid of the pests. K. M. F.
Hillsboro Bridge, N. H.

With a few house plants there is no better means of keeping down green-fly than syringing the plants infested with a solution of sulphotobacco soap. It is easily applied and effective and less troublesome and disagreeable than the usual remedy of tobacco fumigation.

Carnations—Oleander.

Will carnations live out of doors through the winter in this latitude? I have several nice plants from seeds, but cannot keep them all in the house and am anxious to save them. If not in the garden, would they live in a warm cellar, and when ought I to take them up in pots?

Can you tell me the reason why an oleander drops its buds? It is two years old, seems to be thrifty, and free from insects, but has budded three times and then they have fallen off. Any information in regard to the above will be thankfully received. E. J. B.
Troy, N. Y.

Cover some leaves over the carnations and leave them in the ground.

The oleander may have been kept too dry. The plants need abundant watering when blooming.

Roses—Castor Plant.

Will you please tell me in your next Magazine how to winter my Polyantha rose, Little White Pet? Will it live in the ground by giving it some protection, or would it be better to place it in the cellar?

Last spring I received from you a plant of the Duchess of Albany. It has stood in the ground all summer without blossoming and has grown but very little, if any. What would you advise me to do with it? Do you think it can be made to live through the winter?

Will the castor oil bean thrive well in a north yard partially shaded? MRS. P. N. S.
Center Lisle, N. Y.

The Polyantha rose mentioned will stand the winter with little or no protection. It is best, however, to give it a covering of leaves.

Protect Duchess of Albany in the same manner.

How well the castor oil bean will do in the place mentioned will depend on the heat of the summer. There is a prospect of success, try it.

Lady Washington.

The failure of Mrs. S. A. H. with her pelargonium is probably due to the fact that she gave it too much room. I have kept mine in the same pot for several seasons, cutting back sharply when the season of bloom was over, and simply shaking out what dirt I could and filling in with new. The plants will begin blooming in February and continue until June. The only trouble I have is the green louse—aphis, I suppose—which seems to be inordinately fond of them. The pot for a Lady Washington should not be over a six-inch one for success in the window. The plant will do nothing but grow if planted in the open ground. MRS. C. E. C.
Peruville, N. Y.

The following answer from California shows that the blooming season of this plant is different in California from ours.

I think by this time Mrs. S. A. H., Burlington, Wis., will find her Lady Washington will be in bloom, for they are fall and winter bloomers. I would not cut mine off again even if tall. I have had four in all. I

got a pink one last year but it did not bloom and did not grow much, but that was all right on my part. The last six weeks it has made up for lost time. Mine are planted out in the ground with my geraniums and watered every night, and I manure my garden every fall; they say here if the enriching is done in the fall the ground will hold moisture the coming summer, and if left to do in the spring it will dry out. I have tried both and the fall is the time.

CALIFORNIA SISTER.

Properties of Variegated Hop.

Will you please tell us whether the Variegated Hop has the same medicinal and other properties as the common hop? M. E. L.
Ottawa, Kans.

The Variegated Hop is a variety of *Humulus Japonicus*, and it is probable that the latter has properties similar to the common hop, *Humulus lupulus*. This probability is founded on the fact that usually plants of the same genus and often those more remote in relationship, but which belong to the same natural order, have similar properties. This does not always hold true, but often enough so to be considered a rule. Although the properties of allied plants may be similar yet the strength of such properties may be very different in the different species of plants. A plant with variegated leaves is to some extent in an abnormal and enfeebled condition and whatever its medicinal properties it could not be expected to possess them of normal strength. We have no absolute knowledge of the properties of either *Humulus Japonicus* or its variegated form.

CHEAP GRAPES.

The price of grapes the present season has been the lowest the market has ever reached. The quantity produced is now so great that the grower cannot get the cost of production. In noticing the low prices the *Vineyardist* says: "Grapes of good quality, packed in baskets, that sell in the cities for less than two cents per pound return no profit, and are sold at an actual loss to the producer. Four and one-half pound baskets, sold at ten cents each, or \$10 for a hundred baskets containing 450 pounds of grapes would cost, say \$2; for transportation about \$1.50, commission not less than forty cents; total \$3.90, which, deducted from \$10, leaves the pitiful sum of \$6.10—less than one and a half cents per pound, which means ruin to the producer, as the balance of his crop, if sold at all, for wine, must be 'sold for a song.'"

This statement is all true. The grape growers of this State have been raising their fruit for three years at cost or at a loss, hoping for a turn in the tide. But the amount of new vineyard land coming into bearing each year has swelled the total of production until the markets are overloaded. People have ignorantly imagined that there were great profits in grape growing and have rushed into the business until it is now swamped. The crops cannot now be consumed, in the meantime the vineyards, most of which are more or less mortgaged, are falling into the sheriff's hands and being sold for what they will bring—in all cases for less than their cost. Those who by very hard work and living poorly can manage to still hold on are obliged to see their buildings run down for want of repairs, and to draw from the ground what they can get without supplying it with fertilizers which they are too poor to buy. It is a sad turn in the affairs of what a few years since was a promising industry.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOWS.—The chrysanthemum season opened about the middle of October, and during the present month, November, great shows of these flowers will be held in many parts of the country. They have been prominently announced for some weeks for Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Washington, Indianapolis, Louisville, Pittsfield, Mass., Newport, R. I., Hartford, Conn., Worcester, Mass., Providence, R. I., Springfield, Mass., Toronto, Ont., and Montreal. The popularity of the chrysanthemum is still in the ascendancy, and in the face of strong competition its culture is more exacting and the standard of excellence higher. The coming exhibitions, therefore, will, without doubt, be splendid displays, and some of the great possibilities of this wonderfully varying plant will be witnessed by the visitors.

WEEDS.—"Weeds and How to Eradicate Them," is the title of a little hand-book, by Professor Shaw, of the Ontario Agricultural College. It is published by the J. E. Bryant Company of Toronto, Ontario. We cannot well say too much in praise of this book. The author understands his subject well and treats it thoroughly and in the most practical manner, and in accordance with many years of experience. The principal injurious weeds are illustrated by good engravings. Every farmer, gardener and fruit grower would be better able to contend with weed pests after reading this book, and it should have a place in the agricultural library for ready reference.

"It is
the mind that
makes the man,"

said Watts, but modern ethics deny this, and give the credit to the tailor. It is questionable, however, if either are right.

Food
has some claims

in this respect, therefore those parents who would build up the physique of their children pay strict attention to their diet. Children are all fond of pastry; for this to be healthfully prepared,

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EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS.

DON'T fail to keep up your subscription to VICK'S MAGAZINE. It comes twelve times a year, freighted with just the good things you ought to know.

THE time of year has begun when many subscriptions to VICK'S MAGAZINE expire. Don't fail to renew promptly, as the small cost will be the most economical way you can spend the money if you want to be a successful flower and vegetable grower the year round.

THE premium offers which we make this month are especially desirable and should be taken advantage of by thousands. The watch advertisement on the last page of the cover contains many suggestive thoughts—apropos of the coming holidays.

THE BOOK OF THE FAIR.

Part three of this beautifully illustrated quarto has been received. This work with its numerous photo-engravings will preserve in the most faithful and artistic manner the principal features of the great Fair in all their details. Those who have seen the Exposition will appreciate the reproductions presented in its pages, and those who have not had the pleasure to witness the original can obtain a just idea from them. The printing and whole execution of the work is exquisite. The descriptive text, by Herbert Howe Bancroft, is a model of conciseness, clearness, fullness and appropriateness. The Book when completed will be the means to carry the glory and the teachings of the great fair to future generations. It confines itself neither to art alone on the one side, nor to dry statistics on the other, but aims to present in attractive and accurate form the whole realm of art, industry, science, and learning, as here exhibited by the nations, so far as can be done within reasonable limits. The work will consist of 1000 imperial folio pages, 12 by 16 inches, to be issued in 25 parts

of 40 pages each. It will contain over 2000 of the finest illustrations, from official sources, many of them full page plates. It is intended to issue about two parts monthly at \$1 a part. Published by the Bancroft Co., Chicago, Illinois.

HAWKS AND OWLS.

An interesting investigation concerning these birds has been made by A. K. Fisher of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture. The result appears in Bulletin No. 3 of this Division, and relates to the geographical distribution, food habits, and life history of 73 species of hawks and owls. The following statements by Dr. C. H. Merriam are contained in the letter of transmittal:

"The statements herein contained respecting the food of the various hawks and owls are based on the critical examination, by scientific experts, of the actual contents of about 2,700 stomachs of these birds, and consequently may be fairly regarded as a truthful showing of the normal food of each species. The result proves that a class of birds commonly looked upon as enemies to the farmer, and indiscriminately destroyed whenever occasion offers, really ranks among his best friends, and, with few exceptions, should be preserved and encouraged to take up their abode in the neighborhood of his home. Only six of the seventy-three species and subspecies of hawks and owls of the United States are injurious. Of these, three are so extremely rare they need hardly be considered, and another (the fishhawk) is only indirectly injurious, leaving but two (the sharp-shinned and Cooper hawks) that really need to be taken into account as enemies to agriculture. Omitting the six species that feed largely on poultry and game, 2,212 stomachs were examined, of which 56 per cent. contained mice and other small mammals, 27 per cent. insects, and only 3.5 per cent. poultry or game birds. In view of these facts the folly of offering bounties for the destruction of hawks and owls, as has been done by several States, becomes apparent, and the importance of an accurate knowledge of the economic status of our common birds and mammals is overwhelmingly demonstrated.

LET EACH DO HIS SHARE.

While we are trying to give our readers many good things in these pages pertaining to things new and old we trust those of them who have been planting and caring for plants the past summer in the flower garden, the kitchen garden, the fruit garden, the orchard, and the vineyard, would write out their observations and good thoughts and send them to us for publication. We all want to hear from each other about new plants and old ones.

A GRAND FLOWER SHOW.

The closing show at the World's Fair at Chicago will be a great chrysanthemum show from November 4 to 12. The management of the show will be by a committee of the Horticultural Society of Chicago, and a general committee of noted flower growers. Chrysanthemums will be the grand feature, and a great variety may be expected, including the best sorts known in the trade and many new seedlings which will be exhibited for the first time. Six thousand dollars in cash prizes are to be awarded, and 40 medals of the World's Columbian Exposition. Besides chrysanthemums there will be other flowers shown and for which prizes have been offered. These will consist principally of roses, carnations, orchids and other plants of the season. The arrangements are very complete, the undertaking has been entered upon with great spirit, and it is probable that the exhibition will be the finest flower show ever made in this country.

SOME of the flower badges of nations are as follows: Athens, violet; Canada, sugar maple; Egypt, lotus; England, rose; France, fleur-de-lis (lily); Florence, giglio (lily); Germany, cornflower; Ireland, shamrock leaf; Italy, lily; Prussia, linden; Saxony, mignonette; Scotland, thistle; Spain, pomegranate; Wales, leek leaf; Japan, chrysanthemum.



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A New Jersey Miracle.

Helpless for Years with Locomotor Ataxia and Rheumatism. His case Pronounced Hopeless by the Leading Physicians of Sussex County.

(By Special Correspondence to the N. Y. Press.)

The busy little village of Branchville, N. J., has been the scene of a modern miracle. Chas. F. Struble, a well-known and prosperous farmer, living on Homestead Farm, in Frankford Township, a few miles from Branchville, is just now the chief subject of discussion throughout Sussex County.

The *Press* is always up to date in its news, both political or medical, and has procured the following from Mr. Struble's own lips:

"I have been troubled with rheumatism off and on for 20 years. I have tried all kinds of medicines and treatments. I have taken sulphur baths at Hamburg, N. J., Newton, N. J., and in New York City with a doctor who charged me \$2.50 a bath each day. An English doctor treated me with a galvanic battery at Rockaway, Morris Co., N. Y. I have tried many doctors. None of them did me any permanent good. I used all kinds of liniments I could hear of but without avail.

"About two years ago I was taken much worse and my doctor said I had locomotor ataxia of the spine, and that the chances were against me. After treating me for a time, he finally gave me up and said he had done all he could for me.

"The cords of my limbs were drawn tight as the cords on a kettle drum, and I had such cramps in my limbs that I suffered terrible pain. My feet were cold all the time, I had to use a hot water bag and heated bricks to my feet, but even then I could not get any relief.

"Finally I heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and I commenced taking them on Feb. 5th, 1893. I found in three days time that the cords in my legs began to 'let up,' my feet began to get warm, I began to eat and sleep well, and in one month I had gained six pounds. The numbness in my limbs began to leave me too, and to-day I feel like a new man, and cannot say too much in praise of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I am able to walk and do some work, and all this is after using only nine boxes of Pink Pills. I feel so grateful for my recovery that I am glad to let the public know what these pills have done for me."

In order to emphasize his story, Mr. Struble made the following affidavit:

Sworn and subscribed before me this thirteenth day of April, A. D., 1893.

IRA COSS, *Justice of the Peace.*

Justice Coss evidenced his interest and good feeling by the following certificate:

I hereby certify that all that Mr. Struble says regarding his rheumatic and other troubles I believe to be true and correct.

IRA COSS, *Justice of the Peace.*

On the farm with Mr. Struble live his two adult sisters. Miss Annie M. Struble made the following statement:

"Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People have done wonderful things for my brother. He was in a helpless condition when I left him on Jan. 12th last; and when I returned on March 25th, I found him cured. The most remarkable thing about the case," she continued, "is the curing of his lameness. Of course I wanted to know all about the causes of such a wonderful change, and I learned from him and my sister and others, that during my absence he had been using the Pink Pills, and that his recovery was attributed solely to them."

Miss Mary E. Struble said: "I saw my brother in all the stages of the disease. He began improving as soon as he began taking the Pink Pills. When my sister went away in January he was apparently at death's door and nobody seemed to have any hope for him. He certainly had little or none for himself, and he was very despondent in spite of all efforts to cheer him. He declared that he felt better as soon as he began taking the Pink Pills, and to

one who, like myself, was attending him day by day, there could be no doubt that they and they alone were the cause of his improvement. Why all other things he had tried he had abandoned, for they had failed to do him the slightest good. What else could have put him on his feet again? We don't wonder at his enthusiasm for the Pink Pills."

George J. Bowman, the proprietor of the American Hotel at Branchville, said: "All that Mr. Struble says in reference to the Pink Pills I know to be true. In fact he can't say too much about them for they have undoubtedly saved his life."

At the Branchville drug store, chief clerk Henry Beemer, remarked, "I have no doubt that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have cured Mr. Struble." Joseph H. McDonald, the proprietor of the General Store of Branchville, and Postmaster Knox, expressed themselves in similar terms.

Pink Pills for many years previous to their general manufacture were used as a prescription. At first they were chiefly prescribed for impure blood and general weakness. Now they are found to be a never-failing specific for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effect of La Grippe, palpitation of the heart, pale and sallow complexions, and all diseases of the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc.

They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities, and all forms of weakness. They build up the blood and restore the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork, or excesses of whatever nature. Pink Pills are sold in boxes (never in loose form, by the dozen or hundred, and the public is cautioned against numerous imitations sold in this shape), at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., or Brockville, Ont.

Notes from Gardeners' Chronicle.

Salpiglossis.—Those who have not grown this pretty, tall-growing annual have missed a treat this season, for I have never observed them so fine or floriferous before, the hot and dry weather just suiting the plant. A long row in the kitchen garden at this place has been much admired. The variety, *S. variabilis grandiflora* gives a great range of colors, including the penciled, intensely dark blue, chocolate, and various shades of yellow. Many of the plants grew to three feet in height, and a quantity of side shoots, which flowered freely.

Alonsoa Warscewiczii compacta.—This half-hardy annual is not well known, and consequently not extensively grown, as it undoubtedly deserves to be. Grown in beds by itself, or in patches in the mixed border, it is very effective, the racemes of bright scarlet flowers and dark green serrated foliage showing to advantage in either case. The plant is a good grower and free-flowerer, and in ordinarily rich soil it attains to a height of from twelve to fifteen inches, and the flowers are useful and effective for the embellishment of small vases or glasses, and in which they keep fresh a long time with the stems in water.

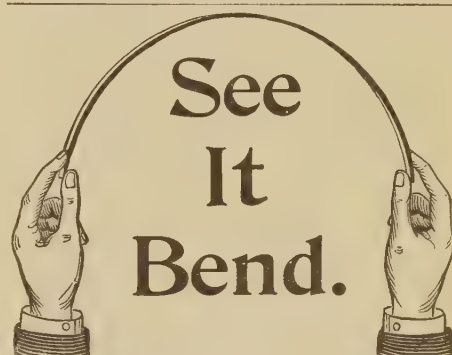
Alonsoa limifolia.—The only difference worth noticing between this half-hardy annual and *A. Warscewiczii compacta* is that the former is six or eight inches higher, and has long narrow leaves. It is well worth growing.

Maurandya Barclayana.—Plants of this effective climber, raised from seed sown in the spring of this year, twining round the stems of some of the standard roses in the flower, are very telling just now, the loosely hanging shoots of purple flowers and pale green leaves showing off to advantage on the once bare and unsightly stems of the rose bushes. The plant is also very telling in effect, growing in six-inch pots for standing on the side staging in a greenhouse or conservatory, with the flowering shoots hanging

over the edges, being equally suitable and useful for planting in baskets suspended from the roof, with the twining shoots of flowers and foliage depending therefrom. It is also a capital plant for covering trellis or lattice work in either of the structures indicated.

NON-FLOWERING PLANTS.—Some persons seem to think a plant worthless unless it blossoms. In this they are mistaken. A fine rose geranium, or myrtle, or ivy, is something to admire and be proud of. I have seen specimens of these plants that were worth a score of ordinary "collections." Every leaf was so clean, so green, so bright, that you did not think about the absence of flowers. Quality, not quantity, is a good motto for the plant-grower. Better a few plants well grown than a dozen ordinary plants. Good plants of the non-flowering kind can be grown in windows where there is not much sunshine, and those having such windows should select plants of this kind rather than flowering sorts.

WEEDS.—What persistent things weeds are! Most of us are spasmodic in our warfare against them. They "lie low," and when we relax in our attempts to get the start of them, they get the start of us, and actually seem to laugh at our surprise when we find them in possession of the garden. Therefore, to fight weeds successfully one must be persistent and always on the offensive. To act on the defensive with the weeds is to be overcome by them ultimately.



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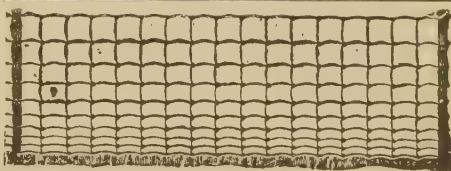
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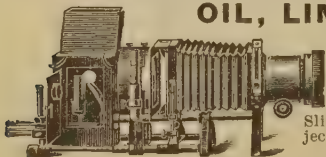
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TUBEROUS BEGONIAS.

The general failure which has attended the raising of these plants in the open ground in this country on account of the scorching sun may possibly be obviated by setting the plants in beds where they will receive some shade from other plants. From the following extract of a communication to the *Journal of Horticulture* it appears that this method is productive of good results even in the more humid climate of England, and consequently there is good reason to think that it would be even more beneficial here. The suggestion of planting low-growing plants between the begonias is of doubtful value here unless watering is carefully attended to, for these additional plants cannot fail to use up more quickly the moisture of the surface soil. No doubt, however, but such plants as abutilons and low-growing varieties of ricinus and other plants with straight stems and leafy tops will afford the needed shade.

"Our best display of these plants is in a bed occupying about a hundred tubers, some of them six years old at least. Dotted here and there amongst the begonias are Eucalyptus globulus, Ricinus cambodgensis, and Abutilon Thompsoni, with the object of giving relief to the otherwise formal surface. No doubt the latter plants have provided an agreeable shade to the begonias, as the eucalyptus and castor oil plants are now six feet in height. The begonias have grown fully two feet high, have flowered profusely, and are doing so at the present time (September 25th). In spite of the popularity of tuberous begonias as summer bedders, and the ease with which they can be grown, I fear many persons do not manage them as well as they might. Too often growers neglect to provide some slight shade for a week or two after they are planted, if the weather be hot or dry. Some plants receive a check at that time from which they do not recover during the summer. As planting proceeds I provide a slight shade by thrusting a few green sycamore or chestnut boughs amongst the plants. The soil is then kept cool, and plants under such conditions quickly become established. The covering of the soil between the begonias with some low-growing plants such as Sedum Lydium, S. glaucum, or Herniaria glabra is too often neglected, and in a hot season, as that just experienced, the advantage of so doing has been demonstrated. Not only do they provide an agreeable contrast between the various colors of the begonias and themselves, but they arrest the evaporation of moisture from the soil by the sun and keep the roots comparatively cool. I have at the present time a very fine display of these begonias from plants that were raised from seed sown early in February of this year."

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ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

WOMEN are getting out into the garden and finding pleasant work among the flowers, and so far so good. Now, let us study effects, and use as much taste in regard to colors as we do in trimming our gowns. For illustration: Here is a garden that makes your eyes blink unpleasantly; scarlet zinnias, geraniums, salvias,—red everywhere. Not far from it lives a woman who evidently admires the made-over sunflower, Helianthus; she has a bed of thirty feet square, with nothing else in it—enough to make one feel bilious to look at it. But here is a back yard that displays worse taste than the others. The owner must have had in her mind an old fashioned bedstead with tall posts. In each corner is a tall Lilium candidum, and inside the brightest of annuals, asters, balsams, marigolds, as if a crazy quilt had been thrown over the bed. Suppose the woman with the red garden had changed with her yellow neighbor, and both had toned down the colors with blue larkspurs and white alyssum, and the lady with the crazy quilt had put her beautiful lilies by themselves, what an improvement it would have been to both. Say what you will, flowers are aristocratic, and to really do well each must have a space to itself. Don't put them among the tomatoes, as one woman did because the ground was rich and it would save trouble to water all together. Foliage plants are beautiful in the right place. Under the parlor windows of one house are planted salvias; they have been pinched out and are a blaze of color on low plants. For a border yellow coleus produces a charming effect. Don't be stiff. Plants in red gipsy kettles, century plants that look as if cut out of tin and painted, images under the trees with the waving leaves overhead, these are all abominations. During the winter evenings we shall have time to read the floral magazines and to think of the prettiest garden we saw last year, and make our plans for our own next season.

SISTER GRACIOUS.

AGES OF THE OLDEST TREES.—In regard to the known ages of old trees the following notes are given by Mr. J. Collinson in *Notes and Queries*: "Elm, 300 years; ivy, 335 years; maple, 516 years; larch, 576 years; orange, 630 years; cypress, 800 years; olive, 800 years; walnut, 900 years; Oriental plane, 1000 years; lime, 1100 years; spruce, 1200 years; oak, 1500 years; cedar, 2000 years; yew, 3200 years. The way in which the ages of these trees have been ascertained leaves no doubt of its correctness. In some few cases the data has been furnished by historical records and by tradition, but the botanical archæologists have a resource independent of either, and when carefully used infallible. Of all the forms of nature trees alone disclose their ages candidly and freely. In the stems of trees which have branches and leaves with netted veins—in all exogens, as the botanist would say—the increase takes place by means of an annual deposit of wood, spread in an even layer upon the surface of the preceding one."

TO CATARRH SUFFERERS

A clergyman, after years of suffering; from that loathsome disease, Catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a medicine which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending his name and address to Prof. Lawrence, 88 Warren Street, New York, will receive the means of cure free and postpaid.

PERFUME OF JASMINE.—The correspondent of a foreign journal writing from Grasse, France, has this to say of the extraction of flower perfumes: "The jasmine harvest here is in full swing. Grasse is permeated by an overwhelming perfume of flowers. In the factories they are working day and night to extract the valuable essence of the flowers as quickly as possible. There are three ways of doing this. The first and coarsest method, which is used for lavender, thyme, peppermint, and geranium, is by boiling down the flowers. The second, which is used for roses, heliotrope, lilac, and ordinary violets, is the old plan of distillation. And the third, which is reserved for Parma violets, jasmine, tuberose, and such expensive essences, is the so-called cold method, the slowest, and therefore the dearest, but the most effective of all. For this last the flowers, which are first carefully weighed, are heaped upon a table round which are seated about twenty girls, each with a frame before her like a good sized window pane. The glass of this frame is, so to speak, buttered on both sides with a mixture of veal fat and a little oil. On the glass the girl strews as many flowers as will lightly cover it, and covers them with another glass similarly treated. Then comes another layer of flowers and another glass, till there are ten glasses in a heap. The next day the flowers, which are by that time quite faded and have given out all their scent into the grease above them, are removed, and fresh flowers are strewn in their place. This proceeding is repeated eight or ten times. The perfumed grease is then put into large, closed, copper vats, with an equal quantity of spirit. In the vats are wheels which are turned by machinery. The rapid revolutions of the wheels beats out of the grease most of the perfume it has soaked in; the grease sinks to the bottom, and is used to make soap, pomade, etc., and the spirit which contains the true essence of the flowers is bottled, and fetches the highest prices given for scent."

CHEAP FLOWERS.—*The Cultivator and Country Gentleman* notices the statements of a New York journal in regard to the flower trade in that city, and which seem to us almost incredible. With all the competition there is in the florist line in New York, that an outsider could take up the trade and establish a business surpassing all his rivals in a short time reads more like romance than stern truth. But here is the statement:

"The New York Mail and Express gives an account of the success of Joseph Fleischman in selling cut flowers cheaply. He began to sell on Fourteenth street two and a half years ago. Observing the wastage of choice flowers left on jobbers' hands, he persuaded some of these dealers to let him have them at figures that enabled him to sell at half the prices charged in stores or less. He sold bunches of roses at 50 cents and even 25 cents. His sales the first year reached \$5,000. The second year he took a small store on Broadway and his receipts reached \$100,000. This year he has opened a flower emporium in the Hoffman House, with mirrored walls, marble counters, tile receivers, porcelain flower designs in dado and frieze, and electric lamps of special design for various light effects.

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CHINESE BEAN OIL.—More oil is extracted from the bean than from any of the other oil yielding plants of China. The two kinds of bean treated for oil are small in size and oval in shape, one having a whitish yellow epidermis and interior, the other being green throughout. They are probably sub-varieties of the Soja bean. The process of extraction in Formosa is described by Mr. Hosie in a recent report on that island. The beans yield about ten per cent. weight of oil, and the cakes when removed from the press weigh some sixty-four pounds and are worth about 2s. 9d. each. They constitute a very valuable manure, and are carefully macerated before being applied to the soil. The commercial value of this industry is shown by the fact that 60,000 tons of bean cakes were exported from Chefoo during 1890, and Newchang sent over 156,000 tons in the same year. The oil is used both for cooking and lighting purposes.—*Journal of Horticulture.*


ROSE, AMERICAN PERFECTION.—A new rose which has been named American Perfection has been produced as a sport from Madame Pierre Guillot, at the establishment of Nanz & Neuner, Louisville, Ky. Flowers of it received by *The American Florist* are described as "large, rather round, borne on very stiff stout stems, foliage like a Mermet. The color is much like a Mermet, but the inside of the outer petals appears streaked and stained with light carmine. The flowers have a good tea fragrance." The originators say that the plant is very vigorous and a great bloomer, and that the flowers last remarkably long after being cut.

LITTLE THINGS IN THE GARDEN.—We may plan great things for the garden, but we find that the great things to be done there are always made up of little, seemingly unimportant, things. If we neglect these because they seem trivial the great things we planned to do are never accomplished. Therefore, do the little things carefully, and lo! before you know it the end you had in view is attained.

KEEP THE SOIL OPEN.—Keep the soil open about your plants. Let it get crusted over and but little benefit is derived from dew and sunshine. It's the same as it is with us. We must take pains to prevent getting crusted and, consequently, crusty. Keep the mind and the soil in such a condition that it can absorb all good things rather than repel them, as it will if it gets a crust on.

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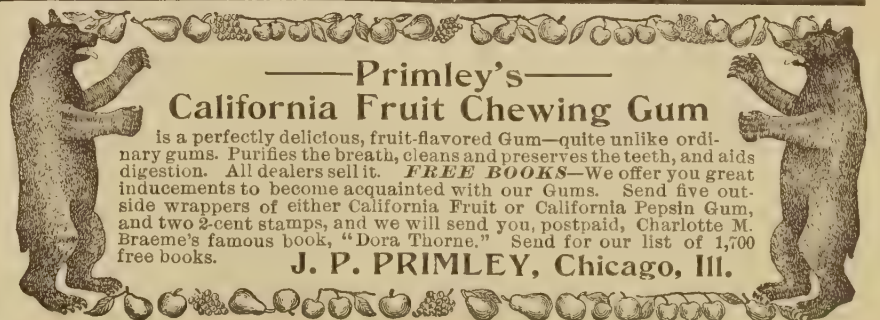
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MODERN PARK PLANTING.

One of man's noblest pursuits in our present time is the creation of public parks. They contribute, in a greater degree than aught else, a blessing and a recreation for the inhabitants of our large cities, who, owing to rapid increasing population and the stretching out of boundary lines (even the suburbs losing their natural country-like beauty and character) are deprived of the enjoyment of free nature. The freshness of the verdure of the meadows and fields, the rustling voice of the forest trees, the murmuring of the rivulets and the refreshing air of the cool and shady woods, all the charm and joyfulness nature offers, has become a mere fable to the many of our fellow creatures who are doomed to live in densely crowded cities. No wonder our younger generation receives but little ethical education and grows up without much interest for natural beauty, although in most of our American cities, both east and west, public administration has done much to mitigate this pitiable condition, and has laid out public parks and opened many garden-like squares for the benefit of the inhabitants. These undertakings have been everywhere highly approved by all good citizens, who are now the sincere protectors of the people's pleasure grounds. But with all the pains which has been taken and the great outlay of money for laying out parks and squares, their maintenance (with but few exceptions) gives but little satisfaction. Has the beauty of their landscape effects been cared for by a judicious thinning out of the groups and groves, the regular pruning of the shrubberies and replanting of shrubs, trees, hardy perennials, etc., where needed, or by embellishing in a tasteful and artistic way all such places near buildings, bridges, arbors, monuments, etc., which are suitable for a flower decoration? And are the borders of brooks, rivulets, lakes and rocky hills laid out and distinguished by suitable plants? We regret to confess they are not!

Landscape gardening does not only mean the laying out of grounds in a landscape style, with all kinds of embellishments in accordance with art, but includes the harmonious representation of combined pictures of nature continually kept intact for a long period of time. Such work educates and refines the taste. In order to have such landscape garden work carried out successfully, it is necessary under all circumstances to put the plantations, the lawns and the entire flower decoration under the sole control and care of a competent and experienced landscape gardener. In too many of our public parks this important branch is directed by superintendents who are not professional gardeners, who perform their office duties and commission with this prominent garden work ignorant subordinates who have no intellect for landscape art. Samples of the so-called "modern park planting" illustrate the incorrect and absurd work done by men who imagine that masses of contrasting colors of the foliage of trees and shrubs, or in mass planting of heterogeneous combination, would make a deep impression on a class of people who are in rapture to see a "Burning bush." Such oddities on a large scale can be seen in a near-by city park, where masses of Japan quinces, *Spiraea prunifolia* et *Reevesii* fl. pl. S., *opulifolia aurea*, *Forsythia suspensa*, etc., are planted in masses, each kind

by itself. Dr. Wittmack calls such tasteless work "very realistic;" a more definite expression would be "absurdities."

Modern park planting, as illustrated by the past ten years, bears a relation to the prevailing fashion of extravagance in ladies' dresses, where masses of contrasting colors and forms are preferred; but it is not merely what is new or recommended in nursery catalogues as "beautiful," or favored by a certain class of the people, that is the best material for planting in landscape gardens. Caprice and fashion too often dictate, as is proved by the senseless plantings everywhere to be seen. The beauty of a tree or other plant calls for a special place or association, and therefore such plants should not be set out in masses. All such plants as *Prunus pissardii*, purple beech, purple oak, purple peach, *Spiraea opulifolia* var. *aurea*, *Sambucus aurea*, *Hibiscus Syriacus* fol. *argent.* var., etc., can only be planted for contrast in a few specimens in groups of trees and shrubs of a plain natural habit. Trees and shrubs of a highly ornamental character, shown by their peculiar shape, color of leaves, profusion of flowers, fruits, or distinct colors of the bark, in all cases should be planted more to the outskirts of the groups or as single specimens to join parts of small groups with large plantings, or as solitary plants for decorating lawns, etc. Shrub planting, surrounding as an outline the large trees on some part of an extended planting, should never be set out like a hedge or wall, but arranged in as free and loose a manner as possible, and everything like stiffness avoided. Sometimes shrub planting can, at certain points, be agreeably interrupted by small trees like *sassafras*, *elaagnus*, *sambucus*, *cornus*, *cercis*, *euonymus*, *koeleruteria*, *mountain ash*, *lilburnum*, *amelanchier*, *magnolia*, *rhus*, and some other trees of light green, variegated or red foliage for contrast. As to color and contrast, we have noticed in some parks that the plantings are treated with too great simplicity, and the flower decorations are almost avoided. This illustrates another extreme in modern park planting which does not answer the requirements of the refined taste of the present era.

Though much has been said and written about the different styles of landscape gardening, yet the confusion in their definition has not been cleared up. The old Saxon word "park" means an enclosure of meadows, with trees and shrubs for keeping cattle and deer in it—the old German deer parks. This was the original types of the old English parks, but many of them have been modified and corrected by the Reptons and other eminent planters during the past time. The older writers on landscape gardening, as Hirschfeld, Uvedale Price, Whately, A. v. Haake and Skell, in their theories hold close to a mere poetical apprehension, and therefore the technical part of landscape gardening has been neglected by them, and the performance of such ideas in many cases rendered very difficult or quite impossible. In spite of this fact there are still gardeners who cling to this old English cast-away idea, and wish to see our American parks without any floral decoration.

Since the Duke of Puckler laid out the celebrated park at Muskau (Prussia), landscape gardening has received a new direction and performance, which can be defined thus: the "Modern landscape garden"—the park in a landscape or natural style—"is a composed and idealized nature in accordance with the principles of art, and contains all that is beautiful in the landscape." Therefore, the appellation, "English" style should be changed into, "natural" landscape!

The French style (Lenotre) is in some respects a metamorphosis of the "Italian villa or Roman style," the hedge-like planting, the Berceau walks, the water basins and grass plots of regular geometrical forms, straight walks and roads, terraces, stairways, and the flower parterres, adorned with statues, vases, fountains, etc., are its prominent features. In the pleasure,

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grounds of the English parks several representations of the French and Italian style have been adopted and are connected with the surrounding plantings and buildings. For the name "Pleasure Ground" we would propose "Flower Park."

The Chinese and Japanese parks are gardens in a natural landscape style, with all the peculiarities of their own country, customs and habits.

In modern landscape work all kinds of flower embellishments are practicable, provided that they are harmoniously united with the tree and shrub planting; or they may serve as special decorations for obelisks, monuments, fountains, rustic seats, arbors and buildings. The borders of rivulets, brooks and ponds require plantings of aquatic plants; the rocks should be covered with creeping and other low herbaceous plants, those which are characteristic of such localities. Where the trees stand grovelike a blooming and delightful undergrowth must be created so as to prevent the annoying sight of the pedestrians' feet. Stems of isolated trees or abrupt slopes can be adorned with climbing or overhanging plants, and on outskirts of small groups of shrubs several kinds of native herbaceous plants must find their places. On lawns, near water places, conservatories, music stands, etc., large groups of imposing foliage plants, bamboos, yuccas and tall grasses, etc., will form sub-tropical scenes, partly for admiration of their grandeur of vegetation, partly for the instruction of the artist and the passer-by.

All these diverse plantings are essential parts of modern parks, and should under no circumstances be neglected where the people look for pleasure and instruction.—Robert Demcker in *The Florist's Exchange*.

A NEW VEGETABLE.

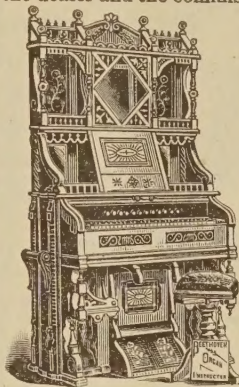
The *Lyon Horticole*, so says the *Journal of Horticulture*, has a long and interesting chapter on the great value as a vegetable of the common *Oenothera biennis*, the very common weed known as evening primrose. Though introduced, it says, from America as early as 1614, it has only recently been known as a kitchen vegetable. It says that it is becoming wild in France, and is known by the common name of Donkey Flower. It questions the accepted origin of the name, and contends that the botanical name is rather derived from *onagra*, and not, as generally supposed, because the roots exhale the odor of wine. From the shape of its roots it is called in France the Leg of St. Anthony. However, it is as a vegetable that we have to do with it. If the seeds are sown as soon as they ripen young plants grow at once, and the plant throws up flower shoots early next year. This is the case with all plants known as biennials; but if we save the seed and sow it in the spring at the same time as we do salsify, parsnips, and similar biennials, the plants make roots only that season instead of flowers. The author of the paper compares the roots with the salsify in value. It is stored away for use from November to April. Under good culture, it states, the roots develop to quite a large size. It also states that it is far superior as a vegetable to the recently introduced *Stachys* from Japan.

This species of Evening Primrose grows very commonly in nearly all parts of the country and we hope some of our readers will make a test of it, giving it good garden culture.

A LOVE FOR PLANTS.—It is a wonder some persons never wake up to the fact that the reason they cannot grow plants well is because they do not attempt to grow them out of love for them. They have them simply because it is "the fashion" to have them. One can generally tell by looking at a collection of plants what the motive was that prompted the making of it. The woman, or man, who loves flowers has the trick of making them grow, but those who have flowers simply because their neighbors have them, see them languish under their care. "We don't seem to have the knack of it," they say. If they had the love the "knack" would come.

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COMMON PLANTS.—Some of the common-place, every-day sort of men and women we meet wear better than the more noticeable ones do. We admire the latter, perhaps, but grow to love the others because of their "staying" qualities. They are always to be depended on. It's the same way with flowers. A petunia is a very common flower, but few plants give better satisfaction in the window than one of the single varieties. It blooms freely, constantly, and has such a cheerful air about it that you can't help loving it. Such a plant is worth a great deal more than some of the aristocratic ones that have to be coaxed and coddled.



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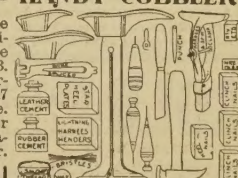
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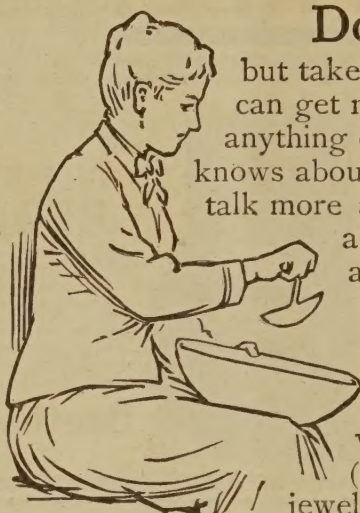
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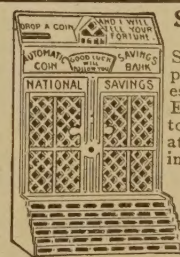
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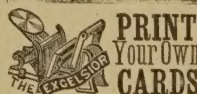
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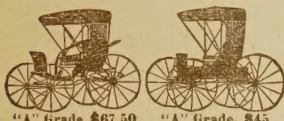


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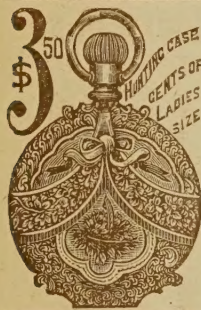
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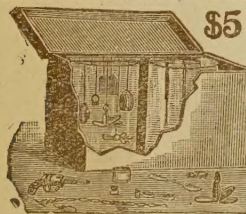
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We make this offer that our readers may secure a good watch in place of the many humbugs that are offered for almost nothing. So many of our subscribers have heretofore accepted of the offer that hundreds have written telling of their satisfaction. We are in receipt of letters every day asking if we will still supply these watches, and we have decided to again make a watch offer for a limited season.

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A.—Every reader of VICK'S MAGAZINE knows that Waltham and Elgin watches are "The Best in the World." Having so many requests to buy *first class* watches for our subscribers, the publishers of VICK'S MAGAZINE have made a very favorable wholesale contract by the terms of which we are enabled to offer to VICK'S MAGAZINE readers the best quality watches at about *one half* the price usually charged for them at retail.

B.—We are not running a watch business for the general public, but purely for our patrons. The readers of this magazine can buy all they wish at these reduced prices, which are within a fraction of what the retailers pay to sell again! *The object of this offer is to save money for our readers.*

C.—Every one knows the excellence of these watches, and that they are *the best in the world* for anything like the money, yet many are compelled to purchase foreign counterfeits simply because they cannot purchase the genuine without paying two or three big profits.

D.—We have selected special watches, which we believe represent the best value for the money of any watches yet made, and we propose to furnish watches suitable for every member of each of the families represented on our subscription list.

E.—The New York Ledger well says: "The demand for punctuality and accuracy is so great in this busy country that a watch is not an article of luxury, but of necessity."

F.—These watches will be sent on the receipt of price, by registered mail, *with the distinct understanding* that if within three days from receipt (after showing it to experts if desired), the purchaser is dissatisfied, or the watch is not up to the guarantee, the watch may be returned by registered mail and the full amount paid for it will be refunded, or allowed on any other watch, at the sender's pleasure.

G.—Below will be found descriptions and prices of a few of the best and most satisfactory Waltham and Elgin watches from the many styles made at these factories. No Swiss or cheap watches are in our list. Do not try to order anything through us except the celebrated Waltham and Elgin watches—the BEST ever made.

H.—All watches offered are stem-winders and stem-setters, and the solid gold cases are standard gold, U. S. assay. Experience has shown this to be the right hardness for long wear.



FOR GENTLEMEN.

No. 1 is a magnificent Waltham or Elgin watch, hunting case or open face. The works contain seven jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, stem-wind and set, and all improvements. The case is made of solid gold, and is a celebrated "Brooklyn Granger." Sent by registered mail for \$25.00.

No. 2. Same works and jewels as No. 1. The case is gold filled. The manufacturers guarantee it to wear fifteen years just like solid gold. Open face \$12.00; hunting case \$15.00, by registered mail.

Watch clubs and instalment men sell this for \$30.00, and others in similar proportion.

No. 3. Same works in solid nickel-silver case, heavy plate glass crystal. Open face, only \$5.50, by registered mail. These works can be put in a more expensive case at any time.



FOR LADIES.

No. 4 is a solid gold, engraved, hunting case watch, ladies' size. The works (either Waltham or Elgin) contain eleven jewels, stem wind, set, and all improvements.

This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship. In addition to the above, each watch contains compensation balance, patent safety pinion and tempered hair spring. Sent by registered mail for \$25.00.

No. 5 is a Waltham or Elgin seven-jeweled watch, solid gold hunting case, ladies' size, same as No. 4. Sent by registered mail for \$18.00.

No. 6 is the same in every particular as No. 4, eleven jewels. The case is gold filled. The manufacturers guarantee it to wear twenty years just like solid gold. Sent by registered mail for \$17.00.

No. 7 has the same works as No. 6 in a gold filled hunting case, full engraved. The manufacturers guarantee it to wear fifteen years just like solid gold. Sent by registered mail for \$14.00.

All the above are suitable for Girls.

FOR YOUNG MEN AND BOYS.

No. 8 is a Waltham or Elgin watch like No. 1, in a solid coin silver 3-ounce case. Open face or hunting. Sent by registered mail for \$12.00.

No. 9 is the same works as above; case same as No. 3, solid-nickel-silver, and for boys is the best watch in the world, being strong, handsome and accurate. Heavy plate glass crystal. Sent by registered mail for \$5.50. The works can be put in a gold case when the boy earns the money to pay for it.

These prices cannot be equaled by any retailer unless he is willing to sell for *minus* the large profit usually made.

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

I.—Read carefully. No watches sent C. O. D. No watches offered as premiums. Every watch will be sent in perfect condition. Should any watch be damaged in the mails return it immediately and a new one will be sent. We guarantee satisfaction in every case, and if the subscriber is convinced that his watch is *not* as advertised his money will be refunded within reasonable time on return of same by registered mail. See paragraph F, above price list.

J.—All our watches are the latest product of the world renowned Waltham and Elgin factories. All watches are stem winders and setters.

K.—These prices do *not* include a subscription. Any subscriber or reader may buy as many watches as he likes from us and at our greatly reduced prices.

L.—If you want a watch and are not a subscriber, you should become one by adding to your remittance 50c. for a year's subscription to VICK'S MAGAZINE.

IMPORTANT.

M.—In ordering be careful to name the number of the watch desired, the kind of case, and whether open face or hunting. Say whether a Waltham or Elgin is preferred; also please name the price of watch you want. Do ALL THIS TO AVOID MISTAKES.

N.—Every watch will be sent by registered mail. Each one is inspected and regulated before mailing, but while only perfect watches ever leave the Waltham or Elgin factories, accidents are possible in the mails. The watch should be carefully wound and run when received, and if not in perfect order should be remailed to this office within a reasonable time, at the same time writing about it.

Address all letters and remittances to PUBLISHERS VICK'S MAGAZINE, Rochester, N. Y.

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